

THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

STEVE TEIXEIRA,

Plaintiff,

v.

MOZILLA CORPORATION a.k.a. M.F.
Technologies, a California corporation;
MOZILLA FOUNDATION, a California
public benefit corporation; LAURA
CHAMBERS and her marital community;
WINIFRED MITCHELL BAKER and her
marital community, and DANI CHEHAK and
her marital community,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:24-cv-01032-RAJ

AGREEMENT REGARDING
DISCOVERY OF ELECTRONICALLY
STORED INFORMATION AND ORDER

The parties hereby stipulate to the following provisions regarding the discovery
of electronically stored information (“ESI”) in this matter:

A. General Principles

1. An attorney’s zealous representation of a client is not compromised by
conducting discovery in a cooperative manner. The failure of counsel or the parties to litigation
to cooperate in facilitating and reasonably limiting discovery requests and responses raises
litigation costs and contributes to the risk of sanctions.

2. As provided in LCR 26(f), the proportionality standard set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P.26(b)(1) must be applied in each case when formulating a discovery plan. To further the application of the proportionality standard in discovery, requests for production of ESI and related responses should be reasonably targeted, clear, and as specific as possible. This agreement is intended to assist the parties in identifying relevant, responsive information that has been stored electronically and is proportional to the needs of the case. The agreement does not supplant the parties' obligations to comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 34.

B. ESI Disclosures

Within 30 days of entry of this Order, or at a later time if agreed to by the parties, each party shall disclose:

1. Custodians. The custodians most likely to have discoverable ESI in their possession, custody, or control. The custodians shall be identified by name, title, connection to the instant litigation, and the type of the information under the custodian's control.

2. Non-custodial Data Sources. A list of non-custodial data sources (*e.g.*, shared drives, servers), if any, likely to contain discoverable ESI.

3. Third-Party Data Sources. A list of third-party data sources, if any, likely to contain discoverable ESI (*e.g.*, third-party email providers, mobile device providers, cloud storage) and, for each such source, the extent to which a party is (or is not) able to preserve information stored in the third-party data source.

4. Inaccessible Data. A list of data sources, if any, likely to contain discoverable ESI (by type, date, custodian, electronic system or other criteria sufficient to specifically identify the data source) that a party asserts is not reasonably accessible under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(B).

1 5. Foreign data privacy laws. Nothing in this Order is intended to prevent either party
2 from complying with the requirements of a foreign country's data privacy laws, *e.g.*, the European
3 Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679. The parties agree to meet
4 and confer before including custodians or data sources subject to such laws in any ESI or other
5 discovery request.

6 **C. ESI Discovery Procedures**

7 1. On-site inspection of electronic media. Such an inspection shall not be required
8 absent a demonstration by the requesting party of specific need and good cause or by agreement of
9 the parties.

10 2. Search methodology. The parties shall timely confer to attempt to reach agreement
11 on appropriate search terms and queries, file type and date restrictions, data sources (including
12 custodians), and other appropriate computer- or technology-aided methodologies, before any such
13 effort is undertaken. The parties shall continue to cooperate in revising the appropriateness of the
14 search methodology.

15 a. Prior to running searches:

16 i. The producing party shall disclose the data sources (including custodians),
17 search terms and queries, any file type and date restrictions, and any other methodology that it
18 proposes to use to locate ESI likely to contain responsive and discoverable information. Upon
19 request, the producing party will provide a search term report for each search query that includes
20 the total number of documents with hits, total number of documents with hits including family,
21 and total number of documents with unique hits.

22 ii. After disclosure, the parties will engage in a meet and confer process
23 regarding additional terms sought by the non-producing party.

1 iii. The following provisions apply to search terms / queries of the
2 requesting party. Focused terms and queries should be employed; broad terms or queries, such as
3 product and company names, generally should be avoided. A conjunctive combination of multiple
4 words or phrases (*e.g.*, “computer” and “system”) narrows the search and shall count as a single
5 search term. A disjunctive combination of multiple words or phrases (*e.g.*, “computer” or
6 “system”) broadens the search, and thus each word or phrase shall count as a separate search term
7 unless they are variants of the same word. The producing party may identify each search term or
8 query returning overbroad results demonstrating the overbroad results and a counter proposal
9 correcting the overbroad search or query.

10 b. Upon reasonable request, a party shall disclose information relating to
11 network design, the types of databases, database dictionaries, the access control list and security
12 access logs and rights of individuals to access the system and specific files and applications, the
13 ESI document retention policy, organizational chart for information systems personnel, or the
14 backup and systems recovery routines, including, but not limited to, tape rotation and
15 destruction/overwrite policy.

16 3. Format.

17 a. ESI will be produced to the requesting party with searchable text as single-page
18 TIFFs (only with load files for e-discovery software that includes metadata fields identifying
19 natural document breaks and also includes companion OCR and/or extracted text files), and
20 searchable PDF.

21 b. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, files that are not easily converted to
22 image format, such as spreadsheet, database, and drawing files, will be produced in native format.

1 c. Each document image file shall be named with a unique number (Bates Number).
2 File names should not be more than twenty characters long or contain spaces. When a text-
3 searchable image file is produced, the producing party must preserve the integrity of the underlying
4 ESI, *i.e.*, the original formatting, the metadata (as noted below) and, where applicable, the revision
5 history.

6 d. If a document is more than one page, the unitization of the document and any
7 attachments and/or affixed notes shall be maintained as they existed in the original document.

8 e. The parties shall produce their information in the following format: single- page
9 images and associated multi-page text files containing extracted text or with appropriate software
10 load files containing all information required by the litigation support system used by the receiving
11 party.

12 f. The full text of each electronic document shall be extracted (“Extracted Text”) and
13 produced in a text file. The Extracted Text shall be provided in searchable ASCII text format (or
14 Unicode text format if the text is in a foreign language) and shall be named with a unique Bates
15 Number (*e.g.*, the unique Bates Number of the first page of the corresponding production version
16 of the document followed by its file extension).

17 4. De-duplication. The parties may de-duplicate their ESI production across custodial
18 and non-custodial data sources after disclosure to the requesting party, and the duplicate custodian
19 information removed during the de-duplication process tracked in a duplicate/other custodian field
20 in the database load file.

21 5. Email Threading. The parties may use analytics technology to identify email
22 threads and need only produce the unique most inclusive copy and related family members and
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1 may exclude lesser inclusive copies. Upon reasonable request, the producing party will produce a
2 less inclusive copy.

3 6. Metadata fields. If the requesting party seeks metadata, the parties agree that the
4 following metadata fields need be produced, and only to the extent it is reasonably accessible and
5 non-privileged: document type; custodian and duplicate custodians (or storage location if no
6 custodian); author/from; recipient/to, cc and bcc; title/subject; email subject; file name; file size;
7 file extension; original file path; date and time created, sent, modified and/or received; and hash
8 value. The list of metadata type is intended to be flexible and may be changed by agreement of the
9 parties, particularly in light of advances and changes in technology, vendor, and business practices.

10 7. Hard-Copy Documents. If a party is required to produce hard-copy documents in
11 an electronic format, the production of hard-copy documents will include a cross reference file
12 that indicates document breaks and sets forth the custodian or custodian/location associated with
13 each produced document. Hard-copy documents will be scanned using Optical Character
14 Recognition technology and searchable ASCII text files will be produced (or Unicode text format
15 if the text is in a foreign language), unless the producing party can show that the cost would
16 outweigh the usefulness of scanning (for example, when the condition of the paper is not conducive
17 to scanning and will not result in accurate or reasonably useable/searchable ESI). Each file will be
18 named with a unique Bates Number (*e.g.*, the unique Bates Number of the first page of the
19 corresponding production version of the document followed by its file extension).

20 **D. Preservation of ESI**

21 The parties acknowledge that they have a common law obligation, as expressed in Fed. R.
22 Civ. P. 37(e), to take reasonable and proportional steps to preserve discoverable information in the
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1 party's possession, custody, or control. With respect to preservation of ESI, the parties agree as
2 follows:

3 1. Absent a showing of good cause by the requesting party, the parties shall not be
4 required to modify the procedures used by them in the ordinary course of business to back-up and
5 archive data; provided, however, that the parties shall preserve all discoverable ESI in their
6 possession, custody, or control.

7 2. The parties will supplement their disclosures in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P.
8 26(e) with discoverable ESI responsive to a particular discovery request or mandatory disclosure
9 where that data is created after a disclosure or response is made (unless excluded under Sections
10 (D)(3) or (E)(1)-(2)).

11 3. Absent a showing of good cause by the requesting party, the following categories
12 of ESI need not be preserved:

- 13 a. Deleted, slack, fragmented, or other data only accessible by forensics.
- 14 b. Random access memory (RAM), temporary files, or other ephemeral data
15 that are difficult to preserve without disabling the operating system.
- 16 c. On-line access data such as temporary internet files, history, cache, cookies,
17 and the like.
- 18 d. Data in metadata fields that are frequently updated automatically, such as
19 last-opened dates (see also Section (E)(5)).
- 20 e. Back-up data that are duplicative of data that are more accessible elsewhere.
- 21 f. Server, system or network logs.
- 22 g. Data remaining from systems no longer in use that is unintelligible on the
23 systems in use.

24 **E. Privilege**

1. A producing party shall create a privilege log of all documents fully withheld from
production on the basis of a privilege or protection, unless otherwise agreed or excepted by this

1 Agreement and Order. Privilege logs shall include a unique identification number for each
2 document and the basis for the claim (attorney-client privileged or work-product protection). For
3 ESI, the privilege log may be generated using available metadata, including author/recipient or
4 to/from/cc/bcc names; the subject matter or title; and date created. Should the available metadata
5 provide insufficient information for the purpose of evaluating the privilege claim asserted, the
6 producing party shall include such additional information as required by the Federal Rules of Civil
7 Procedure. Privilege logs will be produced to all other parties no later than 30 days after delivering
8 a production.

9 2. Redactions need not be logged so long as the basis for the redaction is clear on the
10 redacted document.

11 3. With respect to privileged or work-product information generated after the filing of
12 the complaint, parties are not required to include any such information in privilege logs.

13 4. Activities undertaken in compliance with the duty to preserve information are
14 protected from disclosure and discovery under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A) and (B).

15 5. Pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents, electronically
16 stored information (ESI) or information, whether inadvertent or otherwise, in this proceeding shall
17 not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver
18 by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-
19 client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized
20 by law. This Order shall be interpreted to provide the maximum protection allowed by Fed. R.
21 Evid. 502(d). The provisions of Fed. R. Evid. 502(b) do not apply. Nothing contained herein is
22 intended to or shall serve to limit a party's right to conduct a review of documents, ESI or
23 information (including metadata) for relevance, responsiveness and/or segregation of privileged
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and/or protected information before production. Information produced in discovery that is protected as privileged or work product shall be immediately returned to the producing party, and its production shall not constitute a waiver of such protection.

The parties hereby stipulate to the following provisions regarding the discovery of electronically stored information (“ESI”) in this matter:

DATED this 11th day of September, 2024.

STOKES LAWRENCE, P.S.

SEBRIS BUSTO JAMES

By: /s/Amy Alexander

By: /s/Amanda V. Masters per 9.10.24 email authority

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ORDER

Based on the foregoing, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 16th day of September, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard A. Jones", written over a horizontal line.

The Honorable Richard A. Jones
United States District Judge